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November 2, 1999

BY FEDERAL EXPRESS

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
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FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket No. 98-170

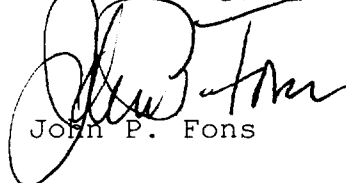
Dear Secretary Salas:

Enclosed herewith for filing is the original and fourteen (14) copies of Vista-United Telecommunications' ("Vista") Petition for an Expedited, Temporary Waiver of Rule § 64.2401(d).

Because of the short timeframe required for addressing this request, Vista requests that its Petition be placed in line for immediate attention.

Please stamp received the extra copy of this pleading and return it to this office in the enclosed, stamped envelope.

Yours truly,


John P. Fons

JPF/csd

Enclosures

cc: International Transcription Service, Inc. (w/encl.)

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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Truth-in-Billing)
and)
Billing Format)
_____)

CC Docket No. 98-170

PETITION BY VISTA-UNITED TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FOR AN EXPEDITED, TEMPORARY
WAIVER OF RULE § 64.2401(d)

Vista-United Telecommunications ("Vista"), through counsel, respectfully requests that the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") temporarily waive, until April 1, 2000, Rule § 64.2401(d), which requires each customer bill to contain "a toll-free number or numbers by which customers may inquire or dispute any change contained in the bill." Rule § 64.2401(d) will currently become effective on November 12, 1999.¹ As grounds for the requested temporary waiver, Vista states:

¹ Vista is aware that currently there is pending before the Commission a Petition by USTA for an Expedited Waiver or Stay of the "Truth-In-Billing" ("TIB") Rules permanently in their entirety, and, more particularly, of Rule § 64.2401(a)(2) and § 64.2401(c), dated July 16, 1999. Vista is also aware that the Commission has delayed implementation of Rule § 64.2401(a)(1) and § 64.2401(c) until April 1, 2000. Vista agrees with USTA that the TIB rules place an extraordinary burden on small LECs like Vista and should either be permanently waived or stayed, or should be implemented in a manner which ameliorates the impact on small LECs. Obviously, if the Commission grants USTA's Petition to stay the entire TIB Rules, then Vista's Petition should be considered moot.

1. Vista is a small incumbent local exchange company ("ILEC") serving 18,754 access lines in a single service area in Florida, including 2,645 residence lines. Although the vast majority of Vista's residential customers are permanent, full-time residents, some residential customers are part-time residents also maintaining residences in other areas. Additionally, Vista serves 8,963 business lines, the majority of which are provided to the Walt Disney World Co. ("Disney"). In addition to Disney and other full-time business customers, Vista also provides regulated and non-regulated telecommunications services to transient business customers, such as contractors, conventions, tradeshow and the like, at hotels and convention facilities within Vista's serving area.

2. At the present time, Vista provides billing and collection services to AT&T Communications ("AT&T") only. Consequently, any Vista customer receiving a telephone bill from Vista will be billed only for Vista's regulated and non-regulated services and AT&T's interexchange ("long distance") services. Therefore, any Vista customer billing inquiry or dispute will be with Vista or AT&T only.

3. Currently, Vista's monthly customer bill contains a local telephone number which customers can call for billing inquiries and disputes. Vista has established a toll-free number in compliance with Rule § 64.2401(d), for purpose of billing

inquiries and disputes, including long distance billing inquiries. However, the inclusion of this toll-free number on the customer bills will require customer bill modifications, including programming changes. In the meantime, in order to comply with the spirit of Rule § 64.2401(d), Vista is providing its customers the toll-free number by means of a bill insert in its November bills and subsequent monthly bills until such time as the programming modifications can be completed.

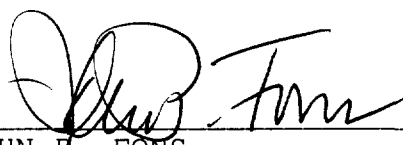
4. Because of Vista's ongoing efforts to achieve Year 2000 compliance, Vista will not be able to make any programming changes in time for the Commission's November 12, 1999, Rule implementation date. All programming work being performed on behalf of Vista was frozen June 1, 1999. Although exceptions may be made for certain emergency applications - including changes required by regulatory agencies like the FCC - retesting and Year 2000 recertification of the affected software and/or systems is required. In no event would Vista be able to obtain the required programming modifications by November 12, 1999.

5. As described herein, Rule § 64.2401(d) has limited applicability to Vista, because Vista does not perform billing and collection services for any entity other than itself and AT&T. Additionally, the number of Vista's customers potentially impacted by the requested temporary waiver is limited; and even there, the customers will have a toll-free telephone number in a

bill insert so as to reach Vista for any billing inquiry or dispute. Accordingly, Vista is requesting a temporary waiver of Rule § 64.2401(d) until April 1, 2000, which is the date to which the Commission has deferred the effective date of Rule §§ 64.2401(a)(2) and (c).

Filed this 2nd day of November, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Fons", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN P. FONS
J. JEFFRY WAHLEN
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ATTORNEYS FOR VISTA-UNITED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U. S. Mail or Federal Express (*) this 2nd day of November, 1999, to the following:

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